

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~claim 4, characterized in that the~~ claim 21, wherein said deformation section is arranged downstream relative to ~~the~~ said inlet part at a position where the ejected liquid drops arrive in a sol state.

6. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~claim 4, characterized in that the~~ claim 21, wherein a cross section of ~~the~~ said deformation section is elliptic.

7. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~claim 4, characterized in that the~~ claim 21, wherein a cross section of said deformation section has a contour having at least one straight line.
~~the deformation section shows a contour having one or more than one straight lines.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~claim 4, characterized in that the~~ claim 21, wherein a cross section of ~~the~~ said deformation section is polygonal.

9. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 21, wherein said diameter D1 is greater than said diameter D0 and not greater than three times said diameter D0. ~~claim 4, characterized in that, if the diameter of the largest circle that can be inscribed in the inner periphery of the deformation section is D_1 , the D_1 is greater than the diameter D_0 of the ejected liquid drops and not greater than three times of the diameter D_0 of the ejected liquid drops in the~~

~~inlet part ($D_0 < D_1 \leq 3D_0$).~~

10. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 21, wherein said inlet part of said flow passage tube has an inner diameter D_2 , and wherein said diameter D_1 is greater than one sixth times said diameter D_2 and not greater than two thirds times said diameter D_2 . ~~claim 4, characterized in that, if the diameter of the largest circle that can be inscribed in the inner periphery of the deformation section is D_1 , the D_1 is between one sixth times and two third times of the inner diameter D_2 of the flow passage tube in the inlet part.~~

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~claim 4, characterized in that the~~ claim 21, wherein said deformation section has a cross sectional area S , wherein said inlet part has a cross sectional area X , and wherein said flow passage is configured such that $(1/36)X < S < (4/9)X$. ~~of the deformation section is between one thirty sixth times and four ninth times of the cross sectional area of the flow passage tube in the inlet part.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A seamless capsule manufacturing method, characterized by manufacturing nonspherical seamless capsules by means of a seamless capsule manufacturing device according to ~~[[claim 4]]~~ claim 21.

14. (Previously Presented) The seamless capsule manufacturing method according to claim 13,

characterized in that a contact process of brining the seamless capsules into contact with ethanol type processing liquid is additionally conducted on the seamless capsules.

15. (Withdrawn) A nonspherical seamless capsule obtained by means of a seamless capsule manufacturing method according to claim 13.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein a cross section of the said deformation section is elliptic.

18. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein a cross section of said deformation section has a contour having at least one strait line. the ~~deformation section shows a contour having one or more than one straight lines.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein a cross section of the said deformation section is polygonal.

20. (Withdrawn) A nonspherical seamless capsule obtained by means of a seamless capsule manufacturing method according to claim 14.

21. (New) A seamless capsule manufacturing device comprising:

- a nozzle for ejecting a liquid for forming capsules; and
- a flow passage tube configured to contain a hardening liquid for hardening at least a surface part of liquid drops formed from the liquid ejected from said nozzle,

wherein said flow passage tube has an inlet part and a deformation section, said deformation section being arranged downstream of said inlet part,

wherein said inlet part is exposed to said nozzle so as to receive the liquid ejected from said nozzle and so as to form the liquid drops in a spherical shape,

wherein said deformation section has a cross sectional area smaller than a cross sectional area of said inlet part so as to deform each liquid drop to have an aspheric profile by changing a flow rate of the hardening liquid to expand the liquid drop in a direction of a flow path of the hardening liquid, and

wherein said deformation section has an inner periphery configured such that a diameter D1 of a largest circle which fits within said inner periphery of said deformation section is larger than a diameter D0 of the liquid drops in said inlet part.

22. (New) The device according to claim 21, wherein said deformation section has a cross sectional area S, and wherein said deformation section is configured such that $(\pi/4)D0^2 < S \leq (9\pi/4)D0^2$.

23. (New) The device according to claim 21, wherein a tip portion of said nozzle is disposed above said inlet part of said flow passage tube.

24. (New) The device according to claim 21, wherein said flow passage tube is disposed such that said deformation section receives the liquid drops from said inlet part.

25. (New) A seamless capsule manufacturing device comprising:

a nozzle for ejecting a liquid for forming capsules; and

a flow passage tube for containing a hardening liquid which hardens at least a surface part of liquid drops formed from the liquid ejected from said nozzle,

wherein said flow passage tube has an inlet part and a deformation section, said deformation section being arranged downstream of said inlet part,

wherein said inlet part is exposed to said nozzle for receiving the liquid ejected from said nozzle and for forming the liquid drops in a spherical shape,

wherein said deformation section has a cross sectional area smaller than a cross sectional area of said inlet part for deforming each liquid drop to have an aspheric profile by changing a flow rate of the hardening liquid to expand the liquid drop in a direction of a flow path of the hardening liquid, and

wherein said deformation section has an inner periphery configured such that a diameter D1 of a largest circle which fits within said inner periphery of said deformation section is larger than a diameter D0 of the liquid drops in said inlet part.

26. (New) A seamless capsule manufacturing device comprising:

a nozzle ejecting a liquid for forming capsules; and

a flow passage tube containing a hardening liquid which hardens at least a surface part of

liquid drops formed from the liquid ejected from said nozzle,

wherein said flow passage tube has an inlet part and a deformation section, said deformation section being arranged downstream of said inlet part,

wherein said inlet part is exposed to said nozzle such that said inlet part receives the liquid ejected from said nozzle and forms the liquid drops in a spherical shape,

wherein said deformation section has a cross sectional area smaller than a cross sectional area of said inlet part such that said deformation section deforms each liquid drop to have an aspheric profile by changing a flow rate of the hardening liquid to expand the liquid drop in a direction of a flow path of the hardening liquid, and

wherein said deformation section has an inner periphery configured such that a diameter D1 of a largest circle which fits within said inner periphery of said deformation section is larger than a diameter D0 of the liquid drops in said inlet part.